

UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State

9/25/79

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-05 SY-05 SS-15 NSCE-00 SP-02
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O 251846Z SEP 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2538

BUENOS AIRES 7946

E. D. 12065: GDS 9/25/85 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: TIMERMAN CASE: MILITARY DELIBERATIONS

REF: STATE 249264

1. THE ARGENTINE MILITARY IS CONTINUING A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH THE TIMERMAN CASE (AS WELL AS THAT OF FORMER PRESIDENT HECTOR CAMPORA) ARE PROBABLY CENTRAL ISSUES. ON SEPTEMBER 24, THE JUNTA HELD AN UNSCHEDULED MEETING. ON SEPTEMBER 25 THE GENERAL OFFICERS OF EACH SERVICE ARE GATHERING IN SEPARATE CONFABS PRESIDED OVER BY EACH SERVICE CHIEF, AND ON SEPTEMBER 26 THE JUNTA IS SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE.

2. COMMENT: THE DECISION TO RELEASE TIMERMAN -- EVEN STRIPPED OF HIS CITIZENSHIP AND EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY -- CANNOT BE AN EASY ONE FOR THE MILITARY. STUBBORN INFLEXIBILITY CAUSED THE MILITARY TO DETAIN TIMERMAN DESPITE THE PAST COURT ORDER AND DESPITE THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT HE IS AN INTERNATIONAL CAUSE CELEBRE BADLY DAMAGING ARGENTINA IN FOREIGN EYES. THERE MAY BE MILITARY MEN WHO ARE STILL GRASPING FOR A WAY TO KEEP HIM UNDER LOCK AND KEY. IN THIS REGARD WE NOTE THAT THE PRESS QUOTES SOURCES STATING THE COURT FIXED NO DEADLINE FOR TIMERMAN'S RELEASE. WHILE THIS MAY INDICATE THAT SOME IN THE MILITARY COULD SEEK TO HOLD TIMERMAN ON THIS EXCUSE, WE BELIEVE THAT THE ANONYMOUS SPOKESMAN MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO SUGGEST THAT THE ARMED FORCES WERE ACTING LEGALLY IN TAKING TIME TO DELIBERATE THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION.

3. NOTE: WE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL MINUTES AGO FROM AN AMERICAN NEWSMAN SAYING HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY A CONTACT IN THE PRESIDENCY THAT A DECISION ON TIMERMAN WILL BE MADE PUBLIC TOMORROW SEPTEMBER 26. CASTRO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS
Margaret P. Gafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
Exemption(s) _____
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full
☐ Classify as _____ ☐ Extend as _____ ☐ Downgrade to _____
Date _____ Reason _____

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